Reply To Examiner's Remarks

Claims 1-3 and 6-8, as amended, and new claims 11-12 are presented for consideration.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious in view of the combined disclosures in U.S. Patent No. 5,133,076, issued to Hawkins et al and U.S. Patent No. 5,721,930, issued to Kasuga. The Examiner rejects claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious in view of the combined disclosures in the Hawkins et al patent, the Kasuga patent and U.S. Patent No. 5,539,876, issued to Saito et al.

The Examiner indicates that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent claim form, including the base claim 1 and the limitations of any intervening claims. Claim 5 is cancelled herein and the limitations of claims 1 and 5 are incorporated into a new method claim 11. The Applicants believe that new claim 11 and claims 2-3, dependent upon claim 11, are in proper form for allowance.

The Applicants also present new claim 12, which recites, in an apparatus format, the same limitations that are recited in new method claim 11. The Applicants believe that new claim 12, as amended, is allowable if new claim 11 is allowable and request that the Examiner allow new claim 12, and claims 7 and 8 dependent upon claim 12. The Applicants believe that claims 12, 7 and 8 are allowable if claims 11, 2 and 3 are allowable.

The Hawkins et al patent discloses a hand held computer with a touch screen and having what appears to be a conventional energy conservation system, as discussed at column 8, lines 42-58. An energy conservation mode is activated by one of four activities or events: (1) pressing a standby key on the face of the

computer; (2) opening the bus connector door on the bottom of the computer housing; (3) system time-out (accumulation of a threshold time interval, during which the computer is inactive); or (4) detection of a low battery voltage by an overlay control interface block (78 in Figure 4). The Hawkins et al patent briefly describes, at column 4, lines 20-24 and lines 49-52, use of an electric stylus with the touch screen in a conventional manner, to enter data and/or commands into a hand held computer. The Hawkins et al patent briefly describes, at column 8, lines 42-58, entry of the computer into a standby mode for power conservation purposes, based upon occurrence of at least one of the four events or activities set forth in the preceding.

The Hawkins et al patent is not concerned with use of a stylus, except in a conventional sense of entering commands and/or data into the computer, and is not concerned with any consequences of presence or absence of a stylus in a stylus receptacle. Presence, in a stylus receptacle (not mentioned in the Hawkins et al patent), of a stylus, or absence of the stylus from the receptacle, would have no effect in the computer system disclosed in the Hawkins et al patent. The Hawkins et al patent provides no motivation for providing a stylus receptacle, or for deactivating a touch screen and/or an LCD display or for activating a power conservation program for the computer, based on presence or absence of a stylus in a stylus receptacle. Thus, claim 1 of the subject patent application is not obvious in view of the disclosures in the Hawkins et al patent.

The Kasuga patent discloses a portable computer system with a resume function, where the current operations are pushed into a selected memory region during power conservation, and the operations are resumed by popping out the content of the current operations stored in the selected memory region when the

system comes out of power conservation mode, as discussed at column 1, lines 9-25. Activation of the resume function appears to be provided so that: (1) when an I/O peripheral device, such as an FDD, is accessed, the resume function is inhibited; (2) the system can resume operations even before a previous cycle of a resume function is completed; the resume function is controlled by closing a cover 17 and a switch 5a, as illustrated in Figure 7; or (4) parameters indicating the current status of the computer system are stored into a non-volatile memory when remaining power or voltage in a built-in battery drops below a threshold, as discussed in column 1, lines 26-27, and in column 2, lines 1-45.

The combined disclosures of the Hawkins et al patent and the Kasuga patent teach a conventional power conservation system, for use with a portable or hand held computer, where the system is activated by one of five activities: (1) pressing a standby key; (2) opening the bus connector door; (3) a system time-out occurs; (4) low battery voltage is detected; and (5) the cover of the computer is being opened.

Claim 1, as amended, recites provision of a hand held computing device where deactiviation of a touch screen or LCD display occurs by sensing whether a stylus is positioned in a stylus receiving receptacle that is provided on the device. The combined disclosures of the Hawkins et al patent and the Kasuga patent teach a system that is concerned only with power conservation that is initiated by other activities, not by determining whether the stylus is, or is not, received in the stylus receptacle. Because of these differences, claim 1, as amended, is believed to be allowable. Apparatus claim 6, as amended, is parallel to method claim 1 and is believed to be allowable if amended claim 1 is allowable.

The Applicants request that the Examiner pass the application, including claims 1-3 and 6-8, as amended, and new claims 11-12 to issue as a U.S. patent.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Schipper

Date: 17 July 2003

John Schipper

Patent representative for Applicants